

House Armed Services Committee

DEMOCRATS

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Terrorism and Unconventional Threats Addresses Defense Authorization Bill FY06

Washington D.C.—Today the House Armed Services Committee Subcommittee on Terrorism and Unconventional Threats marked up its portions of H.R.1815, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006.

Homeland Defense

The bill urges the Secretary of Defense to clarify the military's command and control relationships with other agencies supporting domestic security needs, including the Departments of Homeland Security and Justice, as well state and local first responders.

"Our ability to defend the homeland is only as strong as our ability to coordinate all of the agencies in charge of defending that homeland," said **Rep. Rick Larsen (WA)**. "When a threat exists, be it along the border, coastline or inside our country, we should feel reassured that those agencies are working together in a coordinated and cohesive homeland defense effort."

Transport of Bi-Products from Chemical De-militarization Projects

The Army is required to do a cost-benefit analysis of a proposed plan to destroy weapons stockpiles in Indiana and transport the bi-product to New Jersey for further processing and disposal. They must also inform Congress as to the effects such a proposal will have on both human health and the environment.

"This legislation ensures that the Army will not send any VX byproduct to New Jersey, if there is any chance that it could pose a risk to human health or the environment," said **Rep. Robert Andrews (NJ)**. "Although we have an international obligation to destroy these deadly weapons, we must make sure that the destruction is executed in a manner that maximizes safety of people from every community involved."

Information is not officially included in the final version of H.R.1815 until passed by the full House Armed Services Committee on May 18th.

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